

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 10-17, and 21-26 are currently pending in the subject application, and are presently under consideration. Claims 1-6, 10-17, and 21-22 are rejected. Claims 23-26 have been indicated as allowable. Claims 1, 12, 24, and 26 have been amended. Claims 23 and 25 have been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10-13, 15-17, 21, and 22 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10-13, 15-17, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,609,198 to Wood, *et al.* ("Wood") in view of WIPO Patent Application No. 00/04673 to Binding, *et al.* ("Binding") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,593 to Alexander, *et al.* ("Alexander"). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the elements of now cancelled claims 23 and 25, respectively. Claims 23 and 25 were indicated as allowable in the Office Action dated August 30, 2005. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10-13, 15-17, 21, and 22 should all be in a condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10-13, 15-17, 21, and 22 is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/690,279

Docket No. NG(MS)7180NP

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and that the application be passed to issue.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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